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THE

Floral Instructor.

DEVOTED TO

FLOWERS AND GARDENING IN GENERAL.

EDITED BY R. RENNIE MCGILL.

V. 2, no. 6

JANUARY, 1882.

PUBLISHED BY

SPALDING & MCGILL,

Ainsworth, Iowa.

Terms: 30 Cents Per Year, Postage Paid.



THE BIDWELL.

"The most productive of all varieties, of very fine flavor, very uniform in shape, averaging large to the last, of a bright glossy crimson color, often with a glazed neck and in form much like a bell-shaped pear, early as the Duchess, flesh solid and meaty."—Charles Downing, Edson H. Clark, Daniel Smith, David A. Scott, Alfred Bridgeman, A. A. Bensen, all of Newburgh; and A. L. Ferris, of Poughkeepsie.

"The Bidwell is of great promise, even from the late potted plants put out in August."

May 30, 1881.

Hon. MARSHAL P. WILDER.



"The coming farmer's berry. I do not think I have seen any variety that promises to fill the bill so well for general cultivation. Its flavor will suit even the most fastidious, and under ordinary cultivation it is enormously productive. It will average as large if not larger than the Sharpless, and the plant is a very vigorous grower."—D. A. A. NICHOLS, one of the editors of the Country Gentleman.

"The Bidwell Strawberry, as grown at Cornwall, seems to me fully as prolific as the Crescent and Wilson: is of a much larger size and far superior in quality. If it succeeds elsewhere as at Cornwall, I believe it will be the best Strawberry for general cultivation of any variety now grown."—H. B. ELWANGER, of the firm of Elwanger & Barry.

"THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR US ALL."

The Bidwell is a seedling of the old Virginia Scarlet and originated with H. B. Hathaway, and is a native of Michigan. It therefore derives its vigor, beauty and flavor from our best native stock. It takes the lead of anything on my place, averaging as large as the Sharpless, more productive than the Wilson or Crescent, of a bright, glossy crimson—the true strawberry color—very firm and meaty in texture, and best of all, delicious in flavor. It thrives well on light soils and on all soils. The foliage of the young plants is of a light green color and unmistakable to one familiar with it. I have much the largest stock of any grower in the United States. *Moreover I can warrant my stock as genuine.* This is a very important point.

After my advertisement and illustrated articles in Scribner's Monthly, the American Agriculturist and other journals had drawn great attention to this variety it was much sought after in its original home and Mr. Lyon wrote me that many plants were being sold that could not be identified as the Bidwell. I have received conclusive proof of this. A correspondent wrote me that he had obtained plants from a prominent nursery and that he found them to be pistillate. He asked if they were genuine. Of course they were not, for no variety bears a more perfect blossom than the Bidwell. I am satisfied that the nurseryman in question had not the slightest intention of imposing on his customer. He had simply received spurious stock for the genuine article. While I have no monopoly on this superb variety, it is but simple justice to say that after I have gone to so much expense and pains to test the variety and obtain only plants that I know to be genuine, I should receive credit for the same. I will warrant every plant I send out. Price, \$2.50 per 100; \$20 per 1000. Also a fine stock of Raspberry, Blackberry and Gooseberry plants, Currants and Grape Vines. Descriptive catalogue free. See also my remarkably liberal offers of plants with the splendidly illustrated work "Success with Small Fruits." Address

E. P. ROE, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.

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THE FLORAL INSTRUCTOR.

Entered at the Postoffice, Ainsworth, Iowa, as Second Class Matter.

Devoted to Flowers and Gardening in General.

Vol. II.

Ainsworth, Iowa, Jan., 1882.

No. .6.

For the FLORAL INSTRUCTOR. CHRISTMAS GREETING.

We love the merry Christmas time,
The church bells that in sweetness chime,
When youthful voices light and gay
Glad greeting give the festal day.

And loving voices sing good will,
That peace and joy all hearts may fill,
And promise give of the glad day
When sin and pain shall pass away.

The fair, sweet Springtime came and went,
Summer its birds and flowers lent,
And Autumn, with unsparing hand,
Has blessed the harvests of our land.

The year is slowly dying now;
Winter gives snow wreaths for its brow,—
Good-bye, Old Year, we gently call,
And merry Christmas unto all.

SARA M. A. COWLES.

IVY HER FAVORITE.

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE INSTRUCTOR.
—My heart is sad to-day as I sit down to write after a long delay, and, although the sunbeams are smiling as they chase away the last vestige of the late snow storm, that came sweeping down upon us, accompanied by rude blasts of wind that seemed bent on penetrating its unwelcome presence into every nook and corner, my heart cried out, God pity the unprotected poor, the half-starved, ragged children that wander about our cities unloved, many of them, and uncared for. Methinks they must sometimes cry out, as they come in contact with those living in affluence, and note the scornful look that is cast upon them as they seemingly shrink from them lest their touch contaminate. Ah! they

forget that there are such things in this world as reverses, and fortune's child to-day may be penniless to-morrow. What would be the cry welling up from the hearts of such? Where are my friends that fawned upon me in hours of prosperity? Alas! they have vanished like dew before the morning sun. O! for pure friendship that emanates from the heart of innocent childhood, that sparkles from the eyes that look up trustingly into your own. Surely such is born of heaven. From such an one I have parted to-day. The great iron horse bore him right past my door and he is being rapidly borne away to a home in Iowa. He will come no more to sit by me and smile his appreciation of little acts of kindness bestowed that cost so little and went so far towards making bright oases in the barren desert of his clouded life, for my little friend is mentally and physically afflicted, but O, so patient, and every kind word given was repaid with a smile. One may learn of a child, and my little friend, with his dimmed intellect, taught me a lesson of patience, and, although possessed of few talents, performs his mission.

I wish Mr. Rennie could see my geraniums and coleus. When I lifted the geraniums they were leafless and withered by the long continued drouth. I potted a few, and the sickly looking slips that had rooted very soon began to revive, and now they are beautiful and

beginning to put forth buds. I strove in vain to protect them from the sun's scorching rays, and I shall resort to every means in my power to keep Jack Frost's fingers off my pets. One must keep strict surveillance, for he comes like a thief in the night, and he seemingly delights in robbing flowers of their beauty. Good books and pretty plants are cheerful companions, silent though they be, and companionship with them engenders friendship so lasting that we feel we cannot do without them. Then, too, how we prize a plant from a friend—gentle reminders of the absent. My ivy is my favorite. It was presented me by Mr. Rennie in person. Surely it will thrive I thought. Had it not met with so many accidents it would now be many feet in length. At the present it is nearly to the top of the window, and growing rapidly. Soon after putting it out of doors in the spring a mischievous goat nipped off its leaves and gave it a backset. Poor ivy! I prize it the more. It has had so many trials and is still left to me. Hoping to see many of our floral friends at home in the next number, I send greeting to all.

WEeping Willow.

HINTS TO AMATEUR FLORISTS.

A German gentleman, of Savannah, Ga., writes me a very pleasant letter, and asks, among other things, "How are heliotropes raised, from seeds or by cuttings?"

Heliotrope is classed among seeds for the greenhouse. The seeds of nearly all greenhouse plants are extremely small, and so tender that considerable care is required in growing plants from them. Then, too, some of our most valuable greenhouse plants will grow freely from seed and do not root by cuttings. The apple geranium at no time can be propagated from cuttings; but by

sowing seeds we get plants in a very little while.

Again, that most popular of all winter blooming plants, the Chinese primrose, is by far the most easily and speedily grown from seeds. The best way for an amateur to raise these pretty flowers is to put some broken pieces of pots in the bottom of a box having holes bored in it; on that lay a layer of moss, next the rough siftings of the soil, and above that finely sifted soil made up of sand, leaf mould and rotted turfs. After the surface has been smoothed mark it off in checks or squares of one inch apart, in the same manner as a corn field is marked out; then drop one seed where the lines cross each other. Cover the seeds but slightly, and put over the box a pane of glass until the seeds come up. Not much water will be required, and if it can be applied in fine spray, so much the better. In the greenhouse, with the finely perforated nozzles on our hose, it is no trouble to throw a very fine spray; but, as amateurs do not have such conveniences, I recommend an atomizer, such as can be purchased at any drug store for a trifle. It consists of two glass tubes and a rubber ball, and is chiefly used for atomizing or spraying perfumery.

When the seedlings are up the glass must be opened daily to admit fresh air, and kept open longer and longer each day till it can be entirely dispensed with. By that time the seedlings should be potted off, and, if they can be, placed in a cold frame, which is only four boards knocked together box fashion and a glass cover put on, they will grow rapidly and commence to bloom in September. There are very many of our friends who succeeded admirably last year in raising these primroses, and especially one of them, an invalid, who

grew twenty-three plants from twenty-five seeds.

Well, there, I did not mean to stray away from what I started upon, but perhaps it is just as well. To return to the question of my German friend: Heliotropes can be grown both from seeds and by cuttings, but as the seeds germinate very slowly florists propagate them at almost any season of the year from cuttings. These soon strike when placed in sand that has bottom heat under it. Bottom heat—a technical term used in floriculture—is secured by the heat of a furnace or by warm water or stable manure, and, in some cases by steam. It is indispensable in every commercial greenhouse, as it enables us to start seeds and cuttings so much earlier.

A very good propagating bed on a small scale can be constructed by anyone handy with tools by having the tinner make you a tank three or four inches deep to hold water in. The sand is laid on the tank and the water is heated by a small lamp, care being taken to make a passage to the open air for the escape of gas. This is the idea of a gentleman in England, and I believe is called a Waltonian case. Having tried a modification of it myself before I had a greenhouse, it suited me so well and did its work so perfectly that I can safely commend it. The cost of such a case, if the tank is made of zinc, would be about \$5, and less if made of sheet iron.

The glass case that goes over the whole is made on the plan of a miniature greenhouse, and the top should be removable at pleasure to admit air. A thermometer ought to be kept constantly imbedded in the sand so that the bottom heat is never allowed to get above seventy-five degrees. In this way an amateur who has the time and love

for it can grow many things as well as a florist with a large greenhouse, and I know of nothing that used to give me more pleasure when I was an amateur than to succeed in rooting or raising something that had been pronounced difficult.

How well some people overcome every obstacle and difficulty in flower raising. I know of a Michigan lady of but moderate means, who, less than two years ago, knew next to nothing about flowers. She has an invalid husband and lives in a town whose inhabitants are great flower lovers and can pay for what they get. She wrote to me asking if I thought she could learn the florist's business, and I have at different times given her such hints as I could. The consequence is that she is now well advanced in the study of botany, is a very good florist and is making money. Some of her friends say she is lucky—everything grows for her. Well, maybe so, but let me give the secret of her success in her own words: "It is not luck; it is hard work, hard study, and, as you once told me, eternal vigilance over even the smallest details." If this lady does not make her name famous yet, I shall be greatly surprised, for she is a wonderful woman to experiment with plants, hybridizing them, and in that way trying to bring out new sorts. That she and all such earnest workers may be amply rewarded is my hearty desire.—*R. Rennie McGill in Free Press Household.*

THE drainage of the flower-pots should be perfect, so that surface water can escape through the hole in the bottom of the pot. If the pots stand in saucers pour off the water that runs into them. Yet this rule, though of general application, need not be observed in the case of aquatic plants.

OUR COLORED PLATE.

THE MANCHESTER.

Through the liberality of Mr. John T. Lovett, of Little Silver, N. J., we are able to present every reader of this number with a beautiful lithograph of the Manchester strawberry. Such eminent authority on horticultural matters as the Rural New Yorker says: "The colored plate by no means does the berry justice as it grew at the Rural grounds the past season." It is generally the case that when any new flower or fruit is introduced it is with a highly exaggerated description, but Mr. Lovett in his conscientiousness has gone to the other extreme. From every hand, and from all the eminent pomologists and horticulturists this berry has met with a hearty welcome. It is not claimed that the Manchester is a perfect strawberry, yet it is believed to be nearer so than any variety that has yet been disseminated. The reasons on which this opinion is based are briefly these: 1. It remains firm longer than any other variety; 2. It is large and uniform throughout the season; 3. Its form is perfect; 4. Its color is a beautiful glossy scarlet, and is retained longer than in any other berry; 5. In quality it is superb; 6. Wonderfully prolific; 7. It is a vigorous grower, with large, glossy foliage, and putting out large, pink runners; 8. It continues in fruit a long season, commencing to ripen with Charles Downing and continuing to very late, a very desirable character, but one which no other variety exhibits in the same degree; 9. It endures the drought better than most varieties; 10. Its fruit stalks are tall and strong, admitting of mulching, and in a great measure holding the fruit from the ground; 11. The testimony of E. P. Roe is that "it thrives well on light soils, and therefore on all soils."

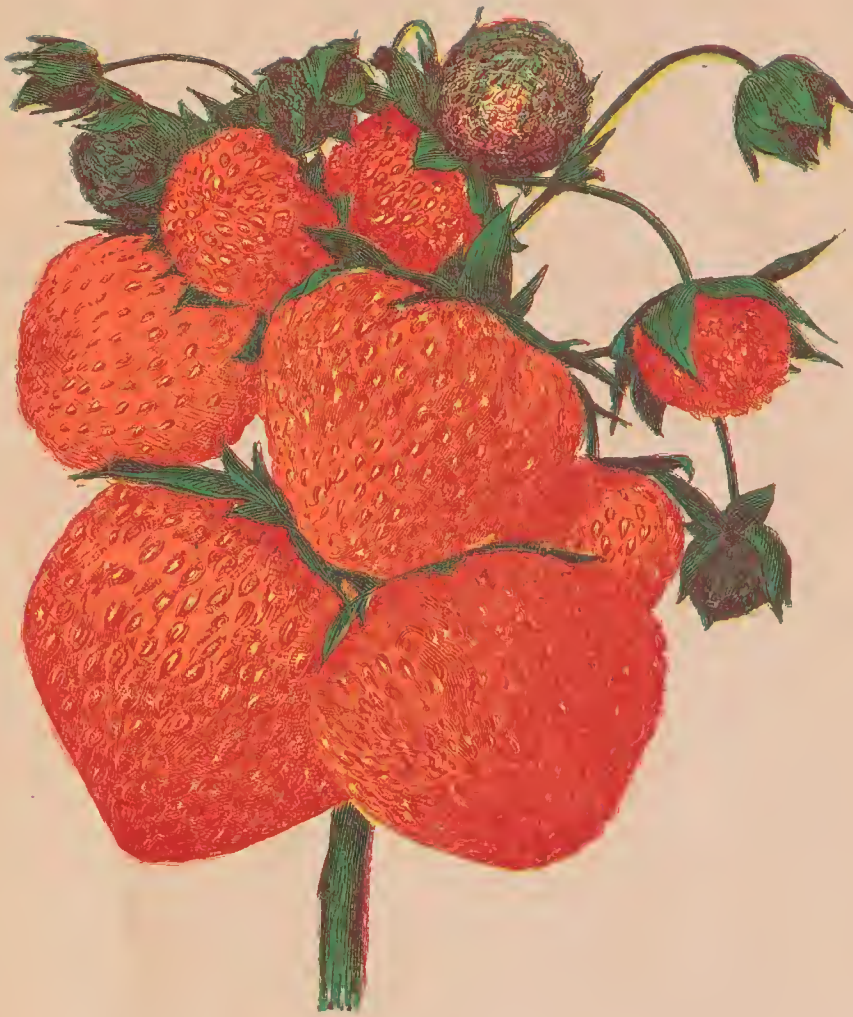
Among the undesirable qualities that varieties otherwise desirable possess, (although in part a recapitulation of the preceding, yet may not be out of place in being mentioned here), from which the Manchester is exempt, are, it does not mat the ground with plants, like the Crescent Seedling, Capt. Jack, French's Seedling, Downer's Prolific, etc. It has never been known to scald; i. e., the fruit turn soft and watery during excessive heat, especially immediately succeeding copious rains; it never buries itself in the earth like the Wilson, for example; it never has the "green tip"

or a white spot on one side, but colors all over at once. It does not dwindle rapidly in size after the first picking, as is the case with most productive varieties, notably the Wilson and Capt. Jack, but continues to produce large, perfect berries to the close of its long season. Its foliage has never been known to blight or rust; it does not change color or lose its flavor quickly after picked, as do other kinds, particularly the highly flavored choice varieties, but what might be termed in antiseptic qualities, being quite remarkable. It has never been known to winter kill. As what might, by some, be considered a disadvantage, it has pistillate blossoms, and requires to be fertilized by some other variety. This is in reality an advantage, as it is not possible for a variety to be so productive when it produces the pollen to fertilize its flowers, as when the same is supplied it by some other variety. It should be remembered that the most prolific varieties all have pistillate blossoms, e. g., Crescent, Champion, Green Prolific, etc. It may be here stated that the Wilson is perhaps as good as any to use for the purpose, although almost any variety with bi-sexual, or "perfect" blossoms, may be used, such as Sharpless, Bidwell, Miner's Prolific, etc. The originator has always been successful with the Wilson, and finds a row of it every 15 feet is quite sufficient.

The Manchester is a chance seedling, found growing in a neglected spot in an old garden at Manchester, N. J., about ten years ago. The originator had growing on the place at the time Russell's Prolific, Wilson, Jucunda, Agriculturist, and half a dozen or more of other kinds, but as it was found growing at a distance from any other strawberry plants, its parentage can only be surmised. From close observation of the blossoms, plant in different stages of growth and fruit, it is thought to be a cross between the Russell and Jucunda, but this is purely conjecture, there being no data on which to base such a conclusion. Since this berry has proved to be such a signal success, on the soil of sea sand at Manchester, without fertilizers, and almost without cultivation, and has also proved as much superior as the soil and culture were better in other places, we can conceive no reason why it will not do well generally. It is not, as has been intimated by some, of rampant growth.

Mr. Lovett has many arrangements to accommodate southern purchasers, whereby plants can be had at any time during the winter. He sends them by mail at \$2.00 per doz., or \$10.25 per 100, and unless by special agreement not more than 200 will be sold to one party. His post-office address is Little Silver, Monmouth county, New Jersey.

Money order at Telegraph office, Red Bank, N. J. We learn that the stock is being very rapidly engaged, and earnestly advise those who wish plants to send in their orders soon.



MANCHESTER.

High Praise from the Highest Authorities.

*As grown in
its home of sand
in Ocean Co.,
N. J.*

"I have never seen a strawberry that in all respects impressed me so favorably. In this I think the strawberry has been discovered that has long been sought for."—PETER B. MEAD.

"I truly believe it is destined to become one of the most popular."—E. P. ROE.

"I deem it worthy of extensive cultivation ; combining all the requirements for market or family use."—WM. PARRY.

*As grown on
the rocky land
of Essex Co.,
N. J.*

"I regard the Manchester as a very promising variety indeed—fully as much so as I did the Sharpless. Fall set plants bore fully as well as fall set plants of the Sharpless, vie with them in growth and it surpasses the Sharpless in *quality* of fruit."—E. WILLIAMS.

*As grown on
the alluvial soil
of the Connect-
icut Valley.*

"The Manchester has more good qualities than any other Strawberry in cultivation. For shape, color, flavor, beauty, firmness and uniform large berries as well as for productiveness and hardiness of plants combined, *it has no equal.*"—F. M. HEXAMER.

*N.Y. Commis-
sion Merchant
and Horticul-
turist.*

"I have sold the berry referred to above for seven years, * * * From its large size, bright color, fine appearance and firmness it invariably commands high prices. Further, it keeps its color the best of any berry I have ever handled and 'stands up' well."—C. W. IDELL.

"We shall be greatly disappointed if the Manchester does not make its *mark* in the future."—AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

FLOWERS—HOW TO GROW THEM.

BY THE EDITOR.

The culture of flowers is the most interesting occupation in the world, a never ending source of delight. Where else can we find for the body and mind a recreation so beautiful, so instructive, or that will afford more lasting pleasure, than by tending and properly caring for a few of the emblems of God's love which he has given to us? What would the world be without flowers? A dreary land, I think. But thanks to the all-wise Creator we find them everywhere. On mountain top, in shady dell, 'midst towering rocks and along the banks of rippling brooks flowers abound. They are as free as the air we breathe, and who shall say that they do not teach of our Father's love, wisdom and wondrous power? Whose hand but His could put the exquisite coloring into the *Jacquemint* Rose, or design the curious petals of the *Passion Flower*? Beautiful objects as these are to the naked eye, how much more so do they become even under the simplest form of a microscope. We may take the keenest razor that can be obtained, place it under a microscope, and the edge will appear jagged, coarse and rough, in brief, full of imperfections: But not so with Nature's handiwork, for the more critically it is examined we are forced to exclaim, "O Lord! how manifold are thy works; in wisdom hast thou made them all."

The culture of flowers teaches industry, patience and hope. No one can expect flowers to grow on hard, uncultivated ground; hence we must spade it or plow it, then industriously weed it, or else our plants would soon be choked up. We sow the seeds in hope that they will spring up and reward our care

by producing beautiful flowers, and we must cultivate the virtue of patience because some plants are great sluggards, while the tendency of men and things in this age is to be in a hurry. The industry with which this recreation has been pursued, shows itself plainly in the great number of highly improved plants which adorn the gardens of the present day, in contrast to those which were cultivated some sixty years ago. Take for instance the *Pansy*, a flower that is universally known and loved the world over. It is only half a century ago, or perhaps a little more, that the improvement began in this little flower which has brought it into everybody's favor. Again, a few years ago there were but very few books or magazines published devoted to flowers; now there is hardly a periodical but that has at least one or more columns relating to the subject, while floricultural books, magazines and catalogues are scattered broadcast all over the land. Many of these are highly embellished with beautiful engravings, which create a desire for possession of plants thus pictured. In this way the florist's business has assumed enormous proportions, so that it is quite common to meet with a greenhouse in a town of a very few hundred inhabitants. It is a healthy occupation, and to prove this, I have known ladies who fancied themselves so completely out of health that they have wished for death. In several instances which have come under my observation, where the invalid could be induced to take a little exercise daily among the flowers, it had the effect of the patient wanting to do something—to set out a plant here, to pull a weed there, to scratch the surface of the soil with a little rake—and while they were doing this they were slowly and surely returning to health. The slight action necessary to labor with the

few tools needed for ladies gardening operations, is just sufficient to set the blood into proper activity, and in every instance that I have recommended it I have been told that it worked wonders. A few years ago it was considered unhealthy to have plants in the house, but it has been proved by the most positive demonstration that such is not the case. I do not mean to be understood to say that plants do not give off some offensive matter, for the perfume of the Tuberose to me is sickening, yet many people are in ecstasies over it, but rather that the gases which they do give off are so very minute that no one may fear to have plants in their living rooms or sleeping apartments either. I know some will not agree with me here, but I have over and over again, when attending fires on winter nights, snatched an hour or two of sleep in the greenhouse with the plants in the full vigor of growth, and yet I do not know that I ever suffered in any way for making the greenhouse my sleeping room. The air in a greenhouse must be moist, and to get that condition the florist throws water on the walks, benches, plants, pots, and in fact everywhere. Once I laid down upon the damp floor and slept three hours, the result of which was a rheumatic affection which settled in my shoulder bones and there remains, but that was caused by my carelessness and not from any deleterious gases given off by plants.

One more argument for the universal cultivation of flowers consists in their usefulness. How eagerly they are sought after by the young people at commencement times; the bride dotes on being married under a floral bell; and when the earthly pilgrimage is over, then we honor our beloved dead with wreaths or other designs of flowers laid upon their coffins. They are associated

with all that is bright and beautiful on earth. They have a language, and they speak to us of nature and of nature's God. The following beautiful lines so thoroughly echo my feelings that I feel safe in advising all to make use of the sentiments conveyed in them:

"Make your home beautiful—bring to it flowers,
Plant them around you to bud and to bloom;
Let them give light to your loneliest hours—
Let them give light to enliven your gloom;
If you can do so, O make it an Eden
Of beauty and gladness almost divine;
'Twill teach you to long for that home you are
needing,
The earth robed in beauty beyond this dark
clime."

LITERARY NOTICES.

The Western Agriculturist, the oldest and best farm monthly in the west, has the most practical premium that we have ever seen—something that every farmer wants—a farm account book sent free and post paid to every subscriber. Read the prospectus. It pays. We have arranged to club the *Agriculturist* with our paper, and will send both papers and the premium for \$1.10.

The December number of that most excellent monthly, *The Housekeeper*, is the best yet issued. It has been enlarged by adding a beautiful cover, and its typographical appearance is handsome. Its columns contain single articles worth many times the subscription price. In the present number are capital chapters on bread making, floral correspondence, "Our Girls at Home," and a new feature, "Facts About Women," giving the latest news about eminent women in all parts of the world. Price 75c per year, or clubbed with the INSTRUCTOR for the same money when subscriptions are sent to us.

The Cottage Hearth, published at Boston, contains more reading of practical domestic worth, and positive home interest, than any other magazine of its

price. Each number contains portraits and sketches of distinguished men, music, floral articles, stories, choice poetry, the latest fashions, etc., all fully illustrated. The January number contains the opening chapters of a new story by Dr. George McDonald, entitled "Weighed and Wanting." This story alone is worth the price, which is \$1.50 a year. We are enabled to send the INSTRUCTOR and the *Cottage Hearth* one year for \$1.50. This will give you a good paper and a choice magazine for the price of one.

Food and Health, a beautiful semi-monthly publication, edited by Mrs. Amelia Lewis, is a welcome visitor to our table. We wish it unbounded success in its endeavors to secure wholesome, healthful food to the consumer.

City and Country, published at Columbus, O., is a new candidate for public favor. We said new, but it is really one of our excellent exchanges with a new name. We are assured that it will surpass its predecessor and yet remain at the same price, \$1.00 per year, with the INSTRUCTOR thrown in.

Godey's Lady's Book, for January is as full of meat as an egg. A beautiful steel engraving for a frontispiece, a colored fashion plate, design in color for a skate bag, together with a great amount of choice reading matter, recipes, etc., makes a very interesting number.

The Christmas number of *The Methodist* came in an elegant cover, the design being original and appropriate. The contents are interesting and specially adapted to the season.

Three numbers of *Demorest's Magazine*, being those already issued of the current volume, are on our table. With elegant chromos, beautiful steel and wood engravings, and a large amount of

The Century Magazine (Scribners') is before us, and as usual is full of interesting matter. The pure, bright and readable articles it contains mark it as among the best literary works in the land. This publication is a gem we should like to see in every intelligent household in the country. Per year, \$4.00. The Century Co., Union Square, New York.

well selected reading matter at the very low price of \$2 a year, we regard it as a marvel of cheapness. It can be had in club with Instructor for the price of one—\$2 for the two publications.

The Domestic Monthly is published by Blake & Co., corner of Broadway and 14th streets, N. Y. It gives valuable hints on dressmaking, the fashions and many forms of household art. Price \$1.50 per year, or the same price clubbed with the Instructor.

The *American Agriculturist* for December excels itself even in useful information, fine illustrations, etc. Besides a great variety of valuable, practical, instructive articles, Work of the Month, outdoors and indoors, the exposure of humbugs and swindlers, excellent household and children's departments, etc., it has contributions from Prof. Riley on the Chinch Bug and Remedy; Prof. G. C. Swallow on South-western Agriculture; Dr. M. Miles on Crop Rotation; Prof. Atwater on Value of Fish as Food; Prof. Caldwell on Feeding Milk; Hon. Geo. Geddes on Farming as an Occupation; H. A. Haigh on Laws for Farmers; Dr. Lianturd on Pink eye in horses; Prof. Cook on Carbolic Acid for Insects; Prof. Jordan on Farmers and Science, etc. A new volume, the 41st, begins now, and all will do well to become subscribers, \$1.50 a year: specimen, 10c. Orange Judd Co., New York, publishers.

The present number of *The Cottage Hearth* appears under a new and exceptionally beautiful cover, giving more than fifty pages on beautiful paper. It contains the opening chapters of Dr. McDonald's new story, "Weighed and wanting. We take great pleasure in recommending this excellent magazine. Per year \$1.50, or clubbed with the INSTRUCTOR for same price. Specimen copy, 15 cents. None free. The Cottage Hearth Co., 11 Bromfield street, Boston, Mass.

The Christmas number of that prince of childrens' magazines, *St. Nicholas*, is the finest ever issued. A splendid tinted frontespiece, several stories, pictures, poems and laughable sketches, will drive away dull care from young or old. \$3.00 per year, or clubbed with INSTRUCTOR for same price.

THE FLORAL INSTRUCTOR.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

SPALDING & MCGILL, Ainsworth, Iowa,
At Thirty Cents Per Year.

R. RENNIE MCGILL, : EDITOR.

To clubs of four or more, twenty-five cents per year, with copy free to club-raiser.

Advertisements of a reliable character will be inserted at ten cents per line.

Special rates given for long or continued advertisements.

AINSWORTH, : : : JANUARY, 1881.

CHAT.

—Sworn Circulation, 1,500.

—In sending remittances in stamps let them be of the one-cent denomination.

—The leaves sent by Mrs. R. A. B., of Lee county, Iowa, are not those of *Colus*, but *Achyranthus*.

—We are in receipt of a small order from Ellsworth, Maine, which will be immediately filled when we know the sender's name.

—An unusually open winter in this section. From middle of November up to the latter part of December plowing has been going on all around us.

—We enter upon the season for the sale of seeds with a large stock of pure, fresh and reliable seeds. Market gardeners, who wish seeds in large quantities, can save money by writing to us.

—We are late this month. Reason: proof-sheets and manuscript lost in the mail while *en route* to printer. The great bulk of the paper had to be re-written in consequence.

—Circumstances beyond our control have delayed the publication of our catalogue, but at last it is printed and will be mailed as speedily as possible to our customers and all applicants, free.

—When persons subscribe for a paper through us, and have received the first number thereof, all complaints in regard

to non-reception, etc., should be addressed to the publishers and not to us.

—Every reader of this paper is sufficiently interested in his fireside and family to induce him to seek the most instructive reading matter at the least cost. We know this to be the desire of thousands, and the desire can be realized by sending us 60 cents and receiving for one year, post paid, two periodicals—THE FLORAL INSTRUCTOR and *Atchinson's Monthly Magazine*, progressive, pure and popular, devoted to art, literature, stories, fashions, home, puzzles, young folks, editorials, woman's work, etc.

PUBLISHER'S GREETING.

Once more has the holiday season come and gone. Another year has dawned upon us and finds the INSTRUCTOR still flourishing. As our regular monthly issue is now 1500 copies, we are justified in saying that our readers are numbered by thousands. The universal favor with which our publication has been received, and the regular increase of our subscription-list, are gratifying items to us. Yet we would like to improve the work still further, but at our exceedingly low subscription price we cannot do so without a loss to ourselves until we have at least 5,000 subscribers. With a little assistance from each of our subscribers in the way of organizing clubs, and sending us names of persons interested in Gardening and Flowers, we think that number can be secured before the end of the present volume.

With many thanks to our friends for past favors, and a hope that they may still find it to their advantage to continue with us we wish all of our many readers a happy New Year, and that the INSTRUCTOR will ever be a welcome visitor in their homes.

“ROUGH ON RATS.”—The thing desired found at last. Ask druggists for “Rough on Rats.” It clears out rats, mice, roaches, flies, bed bugs. 15c boxes.

OUR LETTER-BOX.

The following from Dayton, O. : "Can Verbenas and Heliotropes be kept in a north window, and does the former need much water? I could not do without your valuable little magazine. J.C."

Verbenas can be kept over in a cool room. They being natives of mountainous regions, do not require much water.

The Heliotrope is a native of Peru, whence it was introduced in 1757. Its name was given by Linnæus, from *Helios*, the sun, and *trope*, a turn, in allusion to the flowers being turned by the sun. The genus has not been changed by the cultivators hand as much as many other species of plants, although we have sorts that range from the deepest purple through all the shades of violet to almost pure white, and all retain the delicious vanilla-like fragrance which has given it prominence above many a more showy flower. It makes a rapid growth and under proper treatment produces an abundance of flowers the entire year. For winter decorations, young plants started in the spring and kept growing in pots, either in a conservatory or being plunged in the garden, and brought in the house in early fall, is the best. In fact, for bedding, we prefer them to old worn out plants, which are much more liable to be infected with insects, and take a long time before starting to grow. In winter give plenty of sunlight—too much cannot be had, and plenty of water. Washing or syringing the foliage is essential to keep off the red spider, and when other plants are being smoked with tobacco to kill the aphids, the Heliotrope should be removed, as an abundance of tobacco smoke will blacken the leaves and destroy the buds and flowers. A soil composed of leaf mold and well rotted compost suits them best.

The plants that are propagated from cuttings, and we recommend that all old plants be superseded by new, thrifty ones, each spring, when growing in pots care should be exercised not to allow the roots to become pot bound, as we know of no plant that suffers so easily from this as the Heliotrope. Repotting in a size larger should be attended to every time the plant forms a mat of roots around the side of the jar. This can be easily detected by turning the plant out in the hand at any time.

Mrs. Harry is enthusiastic over the "large beautiful" day lily we sent, and requests treatment of the same. This is a herbaceous plant—one that throws up its leaves in the spring, and in August produces a number of very fragrant pure white flowers, and dies down in fall. It is perfectly hardy, but we are accustomed to throw a bunch of straw over the roots to protect them. If left undisturbed it will grow to a great size in a few years.

Mima M. had some plants from us last spring. The box was bursted open when received, but plants all revived and grew nicely. After a while Mima discovered aphids, but kept at work till she rid her plants of them. Later she noticed the leaves dry up and fall off, and after long searching "could detect very small insects on the under side of the leaf." She thought the insects were mealy bugs and tried every remedy to extirpate them without success. Now, the mealy bug is easily seen and recognized. It is a white, wooly looking insect, nearly always found in the axils of the leaves. Many remedies have been given, but we find none so effectual as hand-picking. The pests attacking M.'s plants are red spiders, caused by the atmosphere in which she grows her plants being too dry. What must be done is to throw water violently on the

under side of the leaves and strive at all times to keep the air of the plant room moist by sprinkling the plants and evaporating water on the stove.

MR. MCGILL—*Dear Sir*:—Having been a subscriber to the little "INSTRUCTOR" for nearly a year, I venture to send a few questions to the "Letter Box." (1) I have a fuchsia that has bloomed abundantly all summer, and has grown to be a large plant. Will it blossom as freely next summer, or will a young plant of the same do better? (2) When is the proper time to start a fuchsia (*speciosa*) for winter blooming? (3) The roses I received from you in the spring seem determined *not* to grow. I have tried to learn all I could in regard to rose culture, and treat them accordingly, but they are no larger than when I got them, and I am quite discouraged. (4) Please tell me if double geraniums are generally as free to bloom as single ones. They have not proved to be for me.

The INSTRUCTOR is a most welcome visitor. I saw it advertised in the *Floral Cabinet*, and felt sure that the editor must be the "Rennie" whose letters to the *Toledo Blade* I had so carefully pasted away in my scrap book. That is how I came to subscribe.

Truly yours, MRS. B.F.B.

P. S.—Please tell me if you furnish *Peterson's Magazine* in connection with the INSTRUCTOR and on what terms?

Yes, \$2.00 for both papers.

1. Freely on the young wood. 2. In the spring months. 3. Plant those roses out next spring in good rich soil and our word for it they'll surprise you. 4. Single geraniums are the best bloomers.

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FOR THE INSTRUCTOR.

VEGETABLE GARDENING NO. 1.

It is the intention of the writer of these articles to give the reader of this publication the benefit of his experience in gardening, hoping thereby to be of use to some. Any questions asked by subscribers pertaining to the vegetable garden will be answered to the best of my ability through the Question-Box Department of this Magazine.

A good garden is one of the necessary acquisitions of every household, but in our county, where land is so plenty, this branch of industry does not, as yet, receive the attention it should; still I am pleased to know that interest in this matter is increasing.

Supposing that you have determined to have a garden, the first thing to be determined is its

LOCATION,

which, if possible, should be a gentle slope to the south. It should, at all events, be protected on the north and west, either by a grove, buildings, or close, high fence.

The size and shape should be such as will admit of plowing. The old theory that a garden should be spaded is long since exploded. Plowing is equally good, if not better, and saves much valuable time. Right here I wish to remark that the vegetable garden should not be crammed with Currant, Raspberry bushes, etc., especially round the fences, as such bushes are always in the way, it is difficult to gather the fruit from them, and it looks untidy. Small fruit should have a place to itself, or, if it must be in the garden, let it be on one side, with the bushes set in rows at such a distance apart as to render fruit gathering easy. But this is a digression from the subject.

THE SOIL.

best suited for the vegetable garden is a rich sandy loam, which each year should receive a good coat of well-rotted ma-

nure from the barnyard or an old straw-pile. Fresh manure should in no case be used, unless it is on a low, wet spot. This may be benefitted by a liberal coat of manure from the horse-stable, which will tend to counteract the coldness of the soil. If possible the ground should be plowed in the fall. This will make the soil pulverize better, and also allow work to begin earlier in the spring.

The work that demands attention this month is

SELECTING SEEDS,

and it should be done immediately. Procure catalogues, study them well as to the merits of the seeds offered as well as the prices asked. When you have fully determined what you want, send to a reliable seed-house and receive your seeds by mail. Unless you would have your garden fail, do not depend on store box-seeds. I will speak of vegetables in my next.

GARDENER.

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NICE PRIMROSES.

H., INDIANA, DEC. 27.—*Spalding & McGill*: All that have been taking the FLORAL INSTRUCTOR like it so much that they again send for it. Indeed I watch for mine to come to tell me how to tend and treat my flowers.

I must tell you what nice Primroses I have. Out of the paper you sent I raised twenty-one nice plants, ten of which I have given away. I have four varieties, and they are all so nice. My bay-window is just beautiful to look at. I had so many flowers to bring in, in the fall, that I did not send for any bulbs. I tell every one where I send for seeds which produce such nice flowers, so I expect in the spring you will have more orders.

My Hoya, which I have written you about, has grown so large I do not know what to do with it. It is far higher than my head and covers a large frame. In the fall it came out full of buds, but on bringing it into the house they all blasted. It is seven years old and I am disgusted with it, though it is green and thrifty and beautiful to look upon.


That you may have abundant success with your paper is my best wish for you.

MRS. M. B. W.

J. C. Kinsey, Cambridge, Ill., told our agent, Mr. Hackett, that he has no medicine in his store that gives the satisfaction of Dr. Marchisi's Catholicon, and has and will recommend it above all others. Every woman should know it and every druggist should recommend it. These are the words of a first-class druggist now in business twenty years.

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 During our busy season it is not probable that the "Instructor" will be issued sooner than the 15th of each month.

Special Premiums FOR LARGEST CLUB LISTS.

Mr. James Donaldson generously gives us authority to announce a setting (15) of Plymouth Rock eggs to the person sending us the largest list of subscribers between January 1st and May 1st, 1882, and a setting (15) of Partridge Cochins to the person sending the second largest list during the same period.

Parties competing for these premiums will please say so with every list of names sent in.

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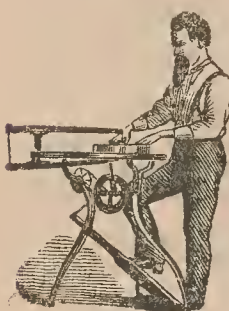
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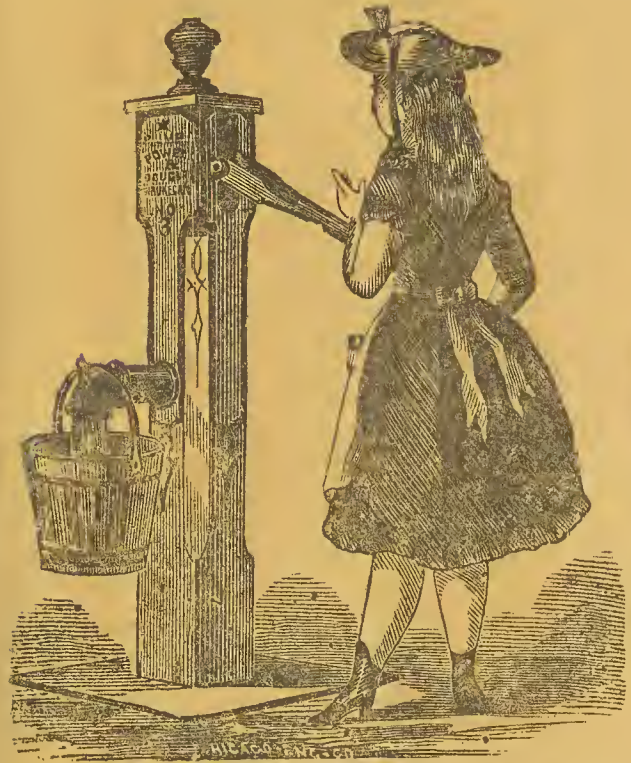


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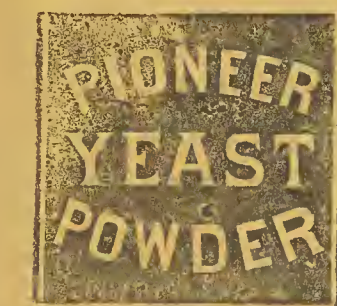
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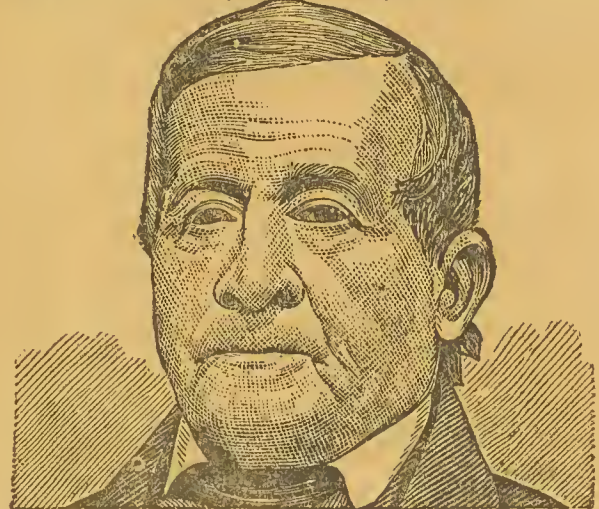
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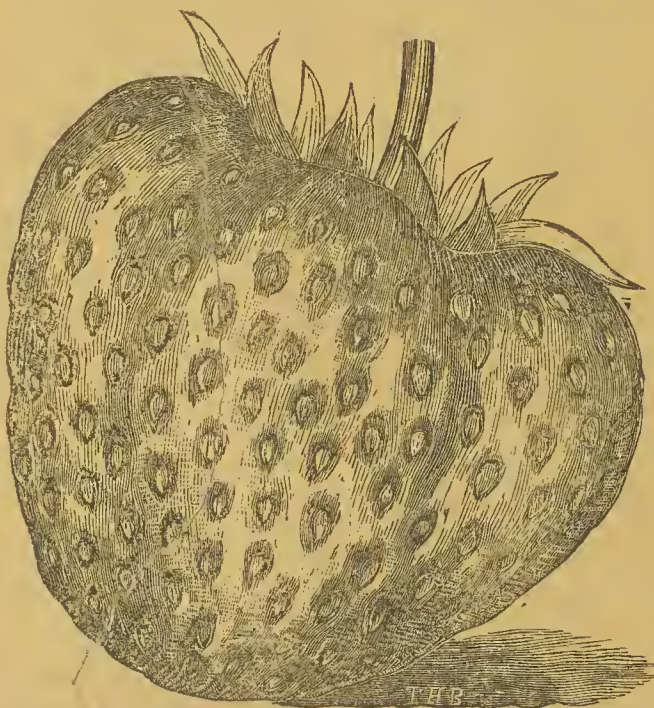
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